

HERE COMES A CANDLE, by Storm Jameson. \$2.50. *Macmillan*. A careful novel from a skilful hand, tying together the lives of the various inhabitants of a run-down London mansion-turned-lodging-house. The author restricts herself to the surface of her characters' lives, and you never feel that her heart is in this particular work. As always, though, her technique is excellent.

THE WILD PALMS, by William Faulkner. \$2.50. *Random House*. The story of a young doctor caught in a belated passion, and the story of a convict whom the floodwaters of the Mississippi confront with the unwelcome physical fact of woman, tormenting him to seek speedy return to the monastic security of prison. The two themes alternate in fugue pattern, resolving in the memory of experience for one, and the safety of the prison-cradle for the other. Here is no glib tale of an epoch, but the interplay of the irreducible antitheses of life, attraction and repulsion. A book far above the flood of fiction.

BIOGRAPHY

DIEGO RIVERA: His Life and Times, by Bertram D. Wolfe. \$6.00. *Knopf*. The third book of a trilogy on the life and work of Rivera. No book about the artist could be dull, he is himself so colorful and has led so rich a life. Mr. Wolfe, however, gives us more than a lively biography of the man; he supplies analyses of representative Rivera works, as well as some valuable material on the background and trends of modern painting. Beautifully bound and printed, the book contains effective reproductions of Rivera's oils, sketches, and murals, and a list of Rivera paintings on public view.

ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK, by Ida M. Tarbell. \$3.50. *Macmillan*. The most important memoir by one of the redoubtable muckrakers since Steffens' *Autobiography* — and Miss Tarbell's most important book since *The History of the Standard Oil Company* (1904). Miss Tarbell did not follow up her masterpiece and other writers carried on her

fight against boss and corporation rule, until their magazines were physically destroyed and they themselves dispersed. Miss Tarbell's mounting conservatism did not save her from equal loss of influence — just why, is clearly though unconsciously explained. Those who see a need for bridging the gap the World War created between the past and the present, will find this balanced, self-critical story helpful and challenging.

MISS BAX OF THE EMBASSY, by Emily Bax. \$3.00. *Houghton Mifflin*. Memoirs of an English girl who was stenographer at the American Embassy in London during the reigns there of Joseph H. Choate, Whitelaw Reid, and Walter H. Page. Filled with the kind of gossip one might expect, mainly about the social and personal side of embassy life and the troubles caused by socially ambitious women.

FREMONT, by Allan Nevins. \$5.00. *Appleton-Century*. "A career that was never quite tragic, never quite heroic, but always in limbo between the two — always in the classical sense tragicomic" — such is the story of Fremont, explorer, geographer, soldier, and first Republican standard-bearer. More important than the man himself was the period, as exciting a chapter as any in the history of America. Painstaking scholarship, plus an unerring sense for the dramatic, make this a brilliant piece of historical writing.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A GERMAN REBEL, by Toni Sender. \$3.00. *Vanguard*. An ambitious girl who became one of the leaders of the Social Democrats tells her story matter-of-factly, and gives some personal lights on well-known personalities of pre-Hitler Germany. While she provides no sensational new insight into the development of Germany, the book is worth reading as a human document.

I WANTED TO BE AN ACTRESS, by Katharine Cornell. As told to Ruth Woodbury Sedgwick. \$3.00. *Random House*. An account of Miss Cornell's career to date,

omitting most of the emotions but none of the dates. Altogether this volume gives the impression that the actress dwells in another world where the strife and difficulties of the theatre, and of the world in general, seldom penetrate. That impression is heightened by the peculiar, fulsome style with which her collaborator has chosen to write the book. The contemporary reviews of Cornell performances and the illustrations are good.

MISCELLANEOUS

WHICH WAY AMERICA?, by Lyman Bryson; LET ME THINK, by Harry A. Overstreet; HERE COMES LABOR, by Chester M. Wright; THEY WORKED FOR A BETTER WORLD, by Allan Seagar. 60¢. *Macmillan*. The first volumes of The People's Library, an enterprise of the American Association for Adult Education, undertaken that knowledge may be "humanized so that ordinary citizens, who are the people who need it most in our time, may find it understandable and useful." Specifically the Library books are attractive, stimulating treatments aimed at "the millions of people who read magazines but never books." Dr. Bryson leads off by considering the battle of propagandas which are striving to win over the American citizen, and discusses simply and clearly the bases of communist, fascist, and democratic governments. Dr. Overstreet offers practical and stimulating comment on such questions as unhappiness, wealth, idleness, and so on. Mr. Wright tells the story behind the labor news in the newspapers, and Mr. Seagar writes of Roger Williams, Thomas Paine, Emerson, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Edward Bellamy, idealists who worked for a better America.

MAN'S ESTATE. Adventures in Economic Discovery, by Alfred M. Bingham. \$3.00. *Norton*. Mr. Bingham's adventures in economic discovery have taken him around the radical-liberal circuit from Marx to Moses (Robert W., who is New York's enterprising Park Commissioner). It is an entertaining mélange of autobiography, economics, and

politics. Reflections on Coney Island are included along with an amazing interview with Mussolini in which Il Duce yells into Bingham's ear that "fascism is socialism. Fascism is communism." Mr. Bingham's argument is that "the difference between capitalism and socialism is in so many respects verbal and unreal, that the transition through which we are now passing may be of a far less drastic character than commonly supposed."

THE SUN AT NOON, by Kenneth B. Murdock. \$2.75. *Macmillan*. Scholarly, readable research into the lives of Elizabeth Carey, Viscountess Falkland; her son, Viscount Falkland; and John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, the brilliant and immoral friend of Charles II. These three were members of the same social class, and all spent their lives in a common quest — to see "the sun at noon" — the ultimate truth.

KNOWLEDGE FOR WHAT? The Place of Social Science in American Culture, by Robert S. Lynd. \$2.50. *Princeton University Press*. Mr. Lynd, co-author of *Middletown* and *Middletown in Transition*, advances a trenchant criticism of the present dilemma confronting the social sciences. The social scientist "hired by businessmen trustees" finds himself caught between the rival demands for straight, incisive and, if need be, radically divergent thinking, and the growingly insistent demand that his thinking shall not be subversive." The author lists twelve social problems which the social scientist must face, "or else —"

THE LAKE OF THE ROYAL CROCODILES, by Eileen Bigland. \$2.50. *Macmillan*. The lake is Shiwa Ngandu in the heart of the former Bemba kingdom in Northern Rhodesia where the author studied the Bembas, formerly one of the most virile tribes of East Africa, and the effect on them of British rule. She also traveled widely through Northern Rhodesia and Tanganyika; her impressions are full of excitement, humor, and keen observation.